

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a drug for the treatment of a neurodegenerative phase of multiple sclerosis in mammals, which method comprises incorporating in said drug a P2X7 purinergic receptor antagonist, wherein the antagonist is selected from the group consisting of Evans Blue, NF279, BBG, o-ATP, KN62, TNP-ATP and HMA.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the antagonist is o-ATP.

5. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a neurodegenerative phase of multiple sclerosis wherein the composition comprises at least one P2X7 purinergic receptor antagonist and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the antagonist is selected from the group consisting of Evans Blue, NF279, BBG, o-ATP, KN62, TNP-ATP and HMA.

6. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 5, wherein the antagonist is o-ATP.

Claims 7-9 (Canceled).